

' Could I have imagined this expedition would have been detained here so long, I would much rather have chosen to live on bread and water. . . . The business of the conducting part is so terrible . . . that I am at present under a doubt with myself whether it is not better to die/ ¹

The details of the operations of Russell's fleet during 1694 and 1695 *ⁿ t[^]ie Mediterranean are given by Corbett. He sums up thus their main features and their results :

So ended the two campaigns—the type of so many that were to succeed them. How often were their main features to recur! The French fleet helpless in Toulon—not blockaded, but refusing to stir; the fitful operations on the Spanish coast hampering in greater or less degree the military operations of the French army ; the fruitless efforts to achieve something on the coast of Provence by the help of preoccupied or faint-hearted allies. Nor was this the whole. As always, beneath the apparent failures and disappointments there was still, unseen and almost unnoticed, the silent pressure of the chafing fleet that was felt to the farthest borders of the war.²

In his account of these events Macaulay relied almost exclusively on Burchett's History, and on the letters of Russell in the Shrewsbury correspondence. Since he wrote, further letters of Russell's have come to light, calendared in the Report of the Historical Manuscripts Commission on the Manuscripts of the Duke

of Buccleuch
at Montagu House.³ Manuscripts of the
House of Lords
also contains a number of documents
relating to the
expedition.⁴ The most important additions to
our know-
ledge of these events consist of the official
correspondence
contained in the Calendars of Domestic
State Papers for

¹ Ibid. pp. 171-3.

- Ibid. p. 182.

³ Vol. ii (1903).

⁴ 1693-1695 (1900), pp. 45^s-9-S.